AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification at page 53, lines 3 - 20 to read as follows:

Next, the stacked plate 5 covered with the Au cover films 4a, 4b on the top and back surfaces 2, 3 thereof is subjected to cold rolling (rolling step) by allowing it to pass between a pair of rolls ~~6, 6~~ 46, 46 as shown in FIG. 11A. The draft herein is typically set to 1% or above, and more specifically 10%. The surface roughness of the circumferential surface of the rolls 46, 46 ~~6, 6~~ is 1.5 μm or less expressed in R_{max}. This produces the elementary plate 8 slightly thinned as shown on the right hand side of FIG. 11A. In the rolling, the Au cover films 4a, 4b, which are relatively soft, are preferentially compressed. Average thickness of the cover films 4a, 4b will be reduced nearly in proportion to the draft of the rolling. As shown in an enlarged view of FIG. 11B, which is an enlargement of portion B surrounded by a dashed line in FIG. 11A, the surface 2 of the plate material 1 is slightly compressed, so that also the regular rough thereof is smoothened to a correspondent degree. On the other hand, the surface 4ay of the Au cover film 4a newly produced by the rolling is compressed and smoothened to a considerable degree during the rolling. This is consequently successful in suppressing the surface roughness as expressed in R_{max} of the surface 4ay to as small as 1.5 μm or less.

Please amend the at Specification page 51, lines 12 - 24 to read as follows:

As shown in an enlarged sectional view of FIG. 9C, the surface 2 of the plate material 1 has a moderate regular rough, so that the cover film 4a composed of Au, formed so as to cover the surface 2, also has a moderate surface 4ay conforming thereto. The surface 4ay of the cover film 4a is compressed by rolling described later, so as to suppress the surface roughness as

expressed in R_{max} to as small as 1.5 μm or less. An ~~unillustrated~~ surface 4by of the cover film 4b on the back surface 3 also has a similar surface roughness. Because the top surface 2 and back surface 3 are thus covered with the cover films 4a, 4b, of which surfaces 4ay, 4by have a surface roughness expressed in R_{max} of as small as 1.5 μm or less, the separator 10 can exhibit an excellent corrosion resistance in such environment for a long duration of time.